

Senate Food Bill Delay Angers Grain Producers

Farm Prices Lower and Sales Made Only from Day to Day in Spite of the Fact That Wheat Harvest Is Already Here

By C. W. GILBERT

Washington, July 7.—The one kind of conservation which doesn't interest Washington is time conservation. Unless an angry country is heard from, as it was when the armed neutrality bill was held up, the "wets," who so far have been worsted, will delay President Wilson's food bill until the incoming harvests are dumped upon markets made uncertain by doubt over legislation and the farmer is arrayed against Mr. Hoover.

Wheat is already coming into market, and no one will buy it, except on a day-to-day basis, because of the unpassed bill. All through the debate there have been threats of a filibuster from the "wets." When to-day's session was drawing to a close and the President had been directed by vote of the Senate to commandeer the whiskey and other strong liquor in bond and turn it into alcohol to make munitions, up rose Senator Chamberlain, in charge of the food bill, and asked for unanimous consent, now that the prohibition question was out of the way, for a vote on final passage of his bill on Wednesday.

Senator Chamberlain has a reputation for getting what he wants. No one likes to say no to him. Senator Wadsworth, who can say "no" more charmingly than any other man in the upper house, supplied the difficult negative. Senator Wadsworth was sure that the measure couldn't be intelligently discussed by Wednesday. No, and what's more, he wouldn't venture to say by that date the intelligent discussion of it could be finished.

Plea for the Farmer

And Senator Nelson, whose constituents' wheat is lying about unbought, at some cents a bushel off, while the creation of a definite market for it waits upon the passage of this bill, spoke up with the voice of an outraged community. He, too, would need time to say something for the farmer who is getting scared.

Then, said Mr. Chamberlain, with grief in his voice, he would have to invoke cloture, the new and untried device for ending dilatory tactics in the Senate. He will move for its application on Monday, and the general belief is that he will fail to get the necessary two-thirds support for his motion. And the food bill delay will go on. And President Wilson's food control programme, the biggest and most universally approved by the public of all his war measures, most fortunately perished in a man commanding wide confidence. Mr. Hoover, will be sacrificed in the interests of whiskey.

The history of whiskey's defeat, unless the filibustering effort at delay somehow saves strong drink, was this: In the night one of the old-time miracles happened, the kind you used to read about when big interests were threatened in legislative halls. Votes were changed. Senator Sherman to-day invoked "pitiless publicity" upon the "invisible government" that could reach in and niter Senatorial decisions in the dark. But the only thing that is public is that as soon as the Senate

got together it reversed itself, reconsidering and rejecting the Cummins amendment that kept strong spirits in bond for the duration of the war. It was a half-hearted proceeding. The new spirit which the war has brought which makes the talk of property rights invoked in defence of bonded alcohol sound hollow and inadequate, was too strong for the midnight manipulators.

To Take All Strong Drink

The Senate undid Cummins only to accept Smoot, who induced it to direct the President to commandeer all the bonded strong drink in the country and convert it into munitions of war, thus saving grain that otherwise would have to be used for this purpose. This direction was finally inserted into the bill, after the prohibitionists had failed to secure the adoption along with it of the Senate committee plan to put the regulation of beer and wine in the President's hands.

Beer and wine remain free. Whiskey goes, when the stocks in the saloons are sold, probably never to be sold in this country again. It is a hard and unexpected blow for the distillers. They probably looked forward to being forbidden to manufacture more liquor. Food conservation plainly required this interdiction. Besides, they saw prohibition coming anyway, but they expected to sell the stocks in bonded warehouses at huge profits, prices advancing under limitation of supply. Now, if their fight for delay avails nothing, they will sell out at cost plus 10 per cent.

If the Chamberlain plan to invoke cloture fails, there will be a virtual filibuster against the food bill. The reasons for it are plain. The distillers will want time if the Smoot plan continues to prevail to finance the removal from bond of all the whiskey that can be taken out before the bill becomes a law. They will hope by delay to exert pressure that will win concessions, either from the Administration or from Senators who care more for the war than they do for prohibition, if there are any such. They have everything to gain out of the confusion that will come from a filibuster.

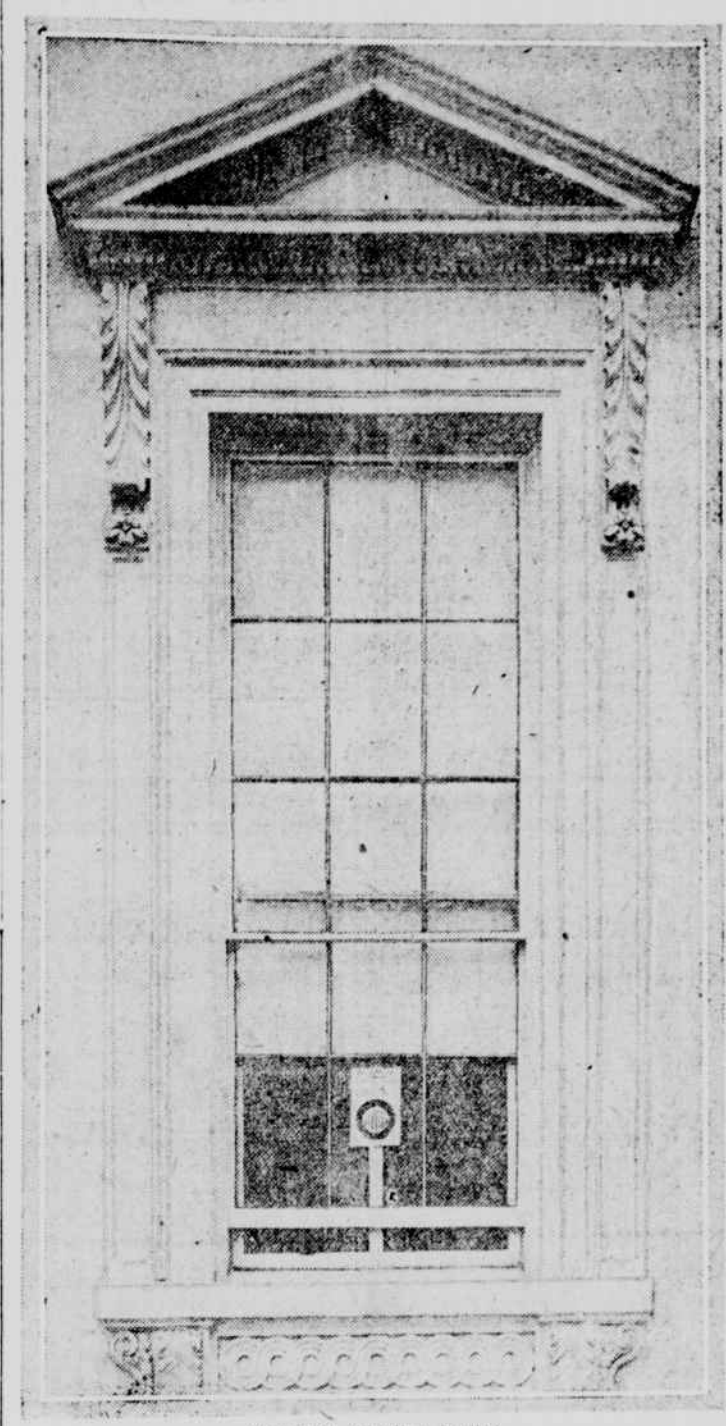
Vast Sums at Stake

And the sums at stake are vast. There are said to be 200,000,000 gallons of strong liquor in bond. It is estimated that sold to the people over the bar it will bring \$3,500,000,000, while if the government buys it at cost plus 10 per cent the distillers will get \$100,000,000 to \$200,000,000.

These are Senate debate figures and vary with the individual Senators, but I give them as the best available. The cost to the government of commandeering if the whole supply is left in bond will be at the outside \$200,000,000 plus the loss of expected revenue, \$440,000,000—\$640,000,000 in all, a total that was heard often in debate, but it was pointed out by those who were determined to turn drink into smokeless powder that if the alcohol commandeered would cost \$640,000,000, drunk it would cost the same people \$2,500,000,000. The social side of questions gets much more consideration than it used to before this war began.

Not only will the food bill be delayed, but also the revenue bill, which is less important. Senator Simmons moved to have it recommitted to his committee when the Smoot commandeering plan went through finally.

MRS. WILSON SHOWS FOOD ECONOMY BEACON



(Copyright, Cinedust Studio.)

Wife of President, first to sign a pledge for conservation in the pantry, received the first of the "House Cards" being sent out by the Hoover administration to placard the homes of pledgers. The card was hung in a dining room window of the White House where all who pass can see it. The placard is of a bright red, white and blue.

How Senators Voted on Smoot's Dry Amendment

The twelve Senators voting against the Smoot amendment were Borah, Chamberlain, France, Hitchcock, Owen, Reed, Simmons, Smith (Georgia), Stone, Trammell, Vandaman and Walsh—comprising both "wets" and "drys" opposed to the plan for divergent regions.

On Senator Cummins's amendment the Senate reversed itself. After having been added yesterday to the Robinson substitute by a vote of 45 to 40, it was stricken out to-day, 43 to 39.

With the addition of the Smoot amendment, deletion of the Cummins provision and adoption of an amendment by Senator James exempting from taxation distilled beverages bought by

the government, the Senate decided, 46 to 34, against adding provisions offered by Senator Pittman, of Nevada, which were originally drafted by Senator Gore, of Oklahoma, and approved by the Senate Agricultural Committee, authorizing the President to suspend manufacture of beer and wine and to limit their alcoholic content.

As amended after the two days' struggle, the Robinson substitute was adopted by a final vote of 45 to 37. The vote follows:

For the Robinson amended substitute: Democrats—Barkhead, Broussard, Culbertson, Gerry, Hitchcock, Hollis, Hastings, James, Jones, of New Mexico; Lewis, Martin, Newlands, Overman, Phelan, Pittman, Pomeroy, Russell, Reed, Robinson, Shepard, Simmons, Smith, of Arizona; Smith, of Georgia; Smith, of Maryland; Stone, Swanson, Tamm, Underwood, Williams. Total, 25. Republicans—Brandes, Colt, France, Frelinghuysen, Harding, Johnson, of California; Knox, La Follette, Lodge, McLean, McNary, New, Penrose, Wadsworth, Warren, Watson. Total, 16. Total, for, 45.

Against the amendment: Democrats—Auburn, Backus, Chamberlain, Fletcher, Gore, Johnson, of South Dakota; Kendrick, King, McKellar, Myers, Owen, Sharf, Shreve, Thompson, Trammell, Vandaman, Walsh, Wolcott. Total, 18. Republicans—Borah, Brady, Cummins, Curtis, Dillingham, Fernald, Gurnea, Hale, Jones, of Washington; Kellenger, Kenyon, Nelson, Norris, Page, Pennington, Sherman, Smith, of Michigan; Smoot, Townsend. Total, 19. Total against, 37.

Gompers, Supporting

Lever Bill, Attacks

Speculators in Food

The Lever bill, which provides for a strict Federal supervision of food production, storage and prices, received the hearty indorsement yesterday of Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor.

The labor leader praised the measure and attacked the "food pirates," who let the people of the nation suffer for their speculations. "Of course," he said, "it is realized that the Lever bill is a wide departure from our American conception of governmental functions, but so is compulsory military service. The people and the government of the United States have embarked on a venture to maintain and defend the principles of right, justice, freedom and democracy for the peoples of all the world. In this titanic task there have arisen the financial pirates, who gamble in and speculate with the people's essentials to their life. The government must come to the rescue of our people in this life and death struggle."

"The food pirates have for months been diligently profiting through the needs of the people. Speculation has forced prices up and food riots have already occurred in this rich country."

"To-day speculators are trying to buy up crops before the plants are out of the ground. By creating human want these should expect to coin enormous profits. Should our government fail to establish control before crops move to the elevators and markets the success of this war and the cause of human freedom, for which the Allies contend, will be imperilled."

Urge 60-Day Embargo To Check Up Supplies

Washington, July 7.—Recent heavy purchases of American foodstuffs by foreign countries, both Allied and neutral, were considered to-day by the Exports Council. Some members, it is understood, favor a complete embargo on food shipments for a period of sixty days, to give the United States time to make a survey of its supplies and to permit foreign governments to give a definite estimate of their requirements. Responsibility for the recent rise in corn prices and the sympathetic rise in the price of wheat is laid to heavy neutral purchases. Reports that this government would restrict wheat shipments as one of its first moves in putting the export control act into operation caused the neutrals, it is said, to turn to cover with a consequent sharp jump in quotations.

The first Presidential proclamation putting certain commodities under export control is expected to be signed next week. It is understood that coal and probably all foodstuffs will be named as among the first commodities on which licenses will be required for shipment.

Holland Warned Of Peril in Offer Of German Aid

Neutrality Causes Convulsions in Holland, China and Spain

U.S. Has Great Control

America Accused by Danish Press of Persecuting Other Nations

(By Cable to The Tribune)

London, July 7.—Neutrality seems to be passing through a blazing fire at the present moment. It is not altogether chance news that comes to-day of convulsions in Holland, China and Spain.

When the Krupp's paper, the "Rheinische Westfälische Zeitung," offers German help to Holland "in the event of violence on the part of England against her," it is evidently true that Holland took careful stock of her eastern and southern borders, if there is anything in German tradition. Lord Robert Cecil talked to The Tribune to-day on this situation.

"It is obvious that Holland must not send potatoes to Germany which she has agreed to send to Great Britain. There is no room in this situation for German complaints," he said.

"On the other hand, when it comes to the question of any restrictions on the neutrals which the United States may choose to impose, it is equally obvious that it is unreasonable to expect the United States to supply the neutrals before herself and the Allies."

"Since the institution of the blockade we have been able to prevent our own commodities from going to the neutrals if we so wished. Now the United States is in the same position. Germany is without doubt brandishing the sword in the direction of the neutrals, but she is not in the same position to terrify them as she was a few months ago."

"At the present moment I don't believe the neutrals are supplying any appreciable quantity of imported goods to Germany, but to some extent, though not a great one, they are exporting their own home-grown and manufactured commodities, principally copper, nickel and fish."

"As regards the neutrals to-day Holland is nearer her pre-war export to Germany than Denmark. The United States now has great control of the situation. All I can say is that in any

bargain America may think fit to make she will have the full benefit of our experience at her command."

Denmark Accuses U. S. Of Persecuting Neutrals

Copenhagen, July 7.—The "Ekstra-Bladet" and the government organ, "Politiken," commenting on the proposals to limit supplies to Scandinavia and Holland, complain that the Entente powers, with America at the head, lack appreciation of the difficult position of small neutrals, and assert proposed measures of the great powers fighting in the name of liberty, justice and civilization are calculated to crush these small states, whose sole desire is to maintain true neutrality toward both camps.

Judging from these newspaper reports, the situation is regarded as desperate. Neutrality, which time and again has been recognized by previous belligerents, no longer suffices, and with the entry of America into the war, hostilities, the "Politiken" says, opened against the unfortunate small states. The paper says America seems to lack the most elementary appreciation of Denmark's difficulties.

It says that articles from influential American papers indicate the United States intends to force Denmark either to join Germany and starve or join the Entente and share the fate of Belgium. The American policy, which the outbreak of the war until the breach with Germany was never neutral, the paper continues, but English, now has become American—that is to say, still more ruthless toward neutrals than was the English. All that Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Holland demand is the permission to remain neutral and avoid starvation. Even this modest desire seems in danger of becoming illusory.

Norway's Food Supply Is More Plentiful Now

An Atlantic Port, July 7.—The food situation in Norway is considerably improved, according to passengers arriving yesterday on a Scandinavian liner. During the last four weeks several important consignments of grain and flour have arrived at Bergen, and have been distributed by the central food committee.

Passengers said the greatest suffering occurred in the mountainous districts, where on account of the heavy rains and late spring the majority of the crops were backward.

Another former source of food supply has been practically cut off. Owing to the many recent naval engagements in the North Sea the fish have been driven far off shore, and have abandoned many of their former hatching grounds.

Carnegie Catches 46 Fish In 2 Hours at Country Home

Lenox, July 7.—Andrew Carnegie made a haul of fresh water fish this morning on Lake Mahoning. In his new 30-foot electric craft, he took two black bass, thirty-four perch and ten sunfish in two hours. He was so delighted that he will make angling a regular pastime.

President Opposes Check on Members Of Defence Council

Against Amendment Forbidding Advisers to Sell Products to Government

Washington, July 7.—President Wilson has thrown his influence against a provision of the food bill which, it is said, practically would disrupt the great machinery of the Council of National Defence. The provision in question would forbid any person connected with the government from selling to it anything in which he has an interest.

Inasmuch as the greatest business interests of the country are represented on the advisory committees of the council, the enactment of the provision, the President thinks, would disrupt all the machinery set up for an efficient economical conduct of the war by marshalling the country's best brains and resources.

President Wilson has written a letter to Senator McKellar, author of the amendment, saying such legislation would be a calamity. He pointed out that business men on the committees have not the power to set the prices on commodities sold to the government, whether or not they are interested in them. All sorts of safeguards, the President stated, have been set up to prevent advantage being taken of the government.

The Administration is much disturbed by the continued attacks in Congress on the advisory committees and the Defence Council because officials believe it has done as much as any other agency to put the nation in the position of preparedness in which it now stands.

Business men on some of the more important committees have been seriously disturbed by the threatened difficulty between Secretary Baker and Secretary Lane over the price of coal. Members of the munitions committee were said to-day to have informed Secretary Baker that the only successful way to deal with munition makers was by conference and cooperation.

Officials hope that the President's letter will prevent the adoption of legislation that probably would have many business men of these committees, and hope also that his cordial indorsement of them will lighten the criticism at the Capitol and inspire the business men themselves to continue their cooperation with the government.

Sweden to Bar Fish Exports

Washington, July 7.—A cable message from the American Legation at Stockholm states that Sweden has agreed to prohibit the exportation of fish, according to information furnished by the British Minister, and Great Britain, therefore, will give letters of assurance permitting shipment of lubricants to Sweden.

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Drouth Hurts Corn Crop Yield To Be Smaller than Estimate of a Month Ago

(From the Tribune Bureau)
Washington, July 7.—Reports from the corn growing regions, according to the Department of Agriculture, indicate a much smaller crop than was estimated a month ago. Two-thirds of the corn acreage in Texas has been "burned out" and similar drouth conditions later are predicted for the great corn states of the West.

Considerable late corn has been planted, it is stated, in the Western states, and on the fate of this will depend the eventual yield. The threatened shortage of corn has resulted in a movement to divert as much corn as possible from stock feeds to human use. Estimates of the Department of Agriculture show that for an average corn crop of about 2,700,000,000 bushels 85.3 per cent is fed to animals, while only 3.6 per cent is used for human consumption.

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